

**From:** John Emerson [john\_m\_emerson@msn.com]

**Sent:** Friday, November 21, 2003 4:48 PM

**To:** adoptionregs@state.gov

To whom it may concern,

I have been an adoption social worker conducting international adoption home studies on a continual basis with Villa Hope International Adoption Agency since October 1991. As you can see from my credentials, I have a Master's Degree, but in education with a concentration in guidance and counseling. My Bachelor's Degree is in Social Work.

I am asking that you consider revising your requirement that all social workers who complete international adoption home studies have a Master's in Social Work, either grandfathering us in if we have worked in the field for a specific amount of time, or coming to some other resolution such as allowing the Bachelor's Degree in Social Work if the social worker has a Master's Degree in some other related helping field (if the Master's Degree is mandatory).

Thank you for your consideration.

Laura Y. Emerson, MEd, LBSW  
Social Worker

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11/24/2003